

League President Mark Brown, offered encouragement and shed a few tears.

"We can't fill her shoes," said Phyllis Nichols, league president and CEO.

Life after checking into the Urban League some mornings at 7 for Garner will be filled with lunch dates, "some good movies and relaxing travels," she said.

Grandson Kody Willis summed it up: "That's my granny and she's a star."

# IN RECOGNITION OF THE OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE OF JOSEPH VALENZANO, JR.

## HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 20, 2006*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Joseph Valenzano's tremendous commitment to public service and his outstanding contributions on behalf of the disability community. Later this week, Joe, who is a constituent of New Jersey's Fifth District, will be honored for his work in Chester, NJ, by the International Brain Research Foundation.

Joe Valenzano has spent more than 30 years in publishing and communications, most recently as president, CEO, publisher, and editor in chief of EP Global Communications, Inc., which publishes *Exceptional Parent Magazine*. This publication provides both practical advice and emotional support to the parents of children and adults with disabilities and special health needs. The magazine provides a forum for parents, health care professionals, and education specialists to work together as a community for the betterment of the disability community.

Under Joe's direction and vision, *Exceptional Parent* magazine has been a pivotal player in important discussions, such as use of restraints and aversive punishments, expanded universal newborn screening, the use of people first language among journalists, end of life issues, and more. *Exceptional Parent* has led the fight to support the frontline workforce of professionals who provide care and assistance to those with special needs and to promote the use of tandem mass spectrometry to screen for over 60 inborn metabolism errors in newborns. And *Exceptional Parent* has worked with the Department of Defense to deliver reliable, accurate information to more than 150,000 military families around the globe to help them care for their children with special needs and disabilities.

It is the dedication of individuals like Joe Valenzano that gives hope to so many parents when they first embark upon the path of raising a child with special needs and provides sustenance to those parents who have already spent years in loving care of children with special needs. I applaud Joe for his efforts and join the International Brain Research Foundation for honoring this lifetime of work.

# CONGRATULATING EAST HIGH SCHOOL ON PLACING THIRD AT NATIONAL COMPETITION ON THE CONSTITUTION

## HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 20, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that East High School from Denver, CO, placed third in the national finals competition of "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution." From April 29 to May 1, 2006, approximately 1,200 students from across the country participated in the 19th annual We the People competition—the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. The We the People program is administered by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

The We the People national finals are a 3-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which the students "testify" before a panel of judges on constitutional topics. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles as they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues.

In Colorado, I have made a priority of dispatching my staff to serve as "judges" in competitions at all levels within my district and throughout the State. Through them I can attest to the skill, intellect and diligence that characterize the East High School team. Congratulations to the members of the East High School team: Michelle Buchanan, Darien Combs, Lila Creighton, Paula Davis, Joshua Figueroa, Sophia Galleher, Rose Green, Jonathon Hammond, Meghan Harrington, Kathryn Havranek, Than Hedman, Collin Hornsby, Noah Hubbell, Mackenzie Jacobs, Elizabeth Kochevar, Clay Lemar, Zach Levek, Christopher Linsmayer, Elise Mann, Gabe Mann, Logan McHenry, Tyler McNamara, Sarah McNaughton, Zena Price-Broncucia, Rachel Romer, Claire Sanderson, Cary Shapiro, Amy Stanesco, Amy Steinhoff, Alex Stevens, Zachary Susel, Elizabeth Trower, and Will VanTreuren. I also wish to commend the teacher of the class, Ms. Edna Sutton, who was responsible for preparing the class for the national finals competition. Also worthy of special recognition are Ms. Jackie Johnson, the State coordinator, and Mr. Loyal Darr, the district coordinator, who are among those responsible for implementing the We the People program in my district.

I am an unequivocal supporter of the We the People program. Nothing is more important to a healthy democracy than a civically educated and informed citizenry. East High School's team is a shining example of the bright future of tomorrow's leaders. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues in the House, please join me in congratulating these young constitutional experts for their outstanding achievement.

# PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 20, 2006*

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes due to a delayed flight. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows on June 19, 2006:

Rollcall vote 289, on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5540—to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 217 Southeast 2nd Street in Dimmitt, Texas, as the "Sergeant Jacob Dan Dones Post Office", I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote 290, on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5504—to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6029 Broadmoor Street in Mission, Kansas, as the "Larry Winn, Jr. Post Office Building", I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote 291, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 826—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Youth Sports Week should be established, I would have voted "aye."

# TRIBUTE TO MR. MARTY BERGER

## HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 20, 2006*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and contributions of Mr. Marty Berger, who died June 18, 2006.

A board member of the Action Alliance of Senior Citizens of Greater Philadelphia and president of the Pennsylvania Alliance for Retired Americans, Mr. Berger was a man of action. In fact, he was a dynamic 77-year-old man of action who inspired hundreds of labor, civil rights, women's rights and senior citizen activists.

Because of Mr. Berger's efforts, senior citizens throughout Philadelphia and across Pennsylvania are coming together in increasing numbers in a common effort to address their own needs and influence the legislative process to affect social, political and economic change.

All who knew him are saddened by the passing of Mr. Berger. But, I and those he worked so hard to empower will continue to struggle to make a better world for our senior citizens so they can live out their final years with justice and dignity.

More than ever seniors need a powerful voice: to demand affordable, quality, and accessible health care for all senior citizens; to protect Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid; and to ensure social and economic justice and full civil rights for our most vulnerable citizens. Mr. Berger's passing represents the loss of a powerful and committed voice, but his legacy of dedication continues, and it is for these reasons that I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues rise to honor him.